instead of issuing on the basis of spot findings of the Committee of Officers nominated for the purpose. This would create a little inconvenience to the consumers in places where smaller capacity godowns are located.

**proposal to increase minimum statutory price of sugarcane**

174. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleassed to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase the minimum statutory price of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what will be its impact on the price of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DVENDRA PRASAD VADAY): (a) to (c) The Government had already announced on 11.3.1996 the Statutory Minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for the sugar season 1996-97 at Rs. 45.90 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% sugar subject to a premium of Rs. 0.57 for every 0.1 percentage point increase in the recoery above that level. There is no proposal to increase the same.

**Scam of Rs. 100 crores by Fci**

175. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam involving over Rs. 100 crores in relation to distribution of wheat by the Food Corporation of India has lately been detected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; indicating the modus operandi of the scam, the amount of wheat and money found cornered therein; and

(c) the officers found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONCUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD VADAV): (a) to (c) On the basis of investigaiton done by the Distt., Police Authorities, rohtak (haryana) acase FIR 10 date 6h Janury, 1997 agaisnt Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana and others under Section 420/109/199/200/120-B IPC, 7/10/55/EC Act and 3 (1) (b) of Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 was registered at Police Statcion, Civil Lines, Rohtak, Haryana. The main allegation in the FIR is that wheat was allotted by Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana by taking bride, to the traders and profiteers. The FIR names the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, haryana and two other FCI officials apart from the private parties. The wheat allocated for open sale under OMSS (D) is reported to have been sold to different parties at exorbitant rates. Exact quantity of wheat and amount involved would be known only after the investigation being conducted by the State Police Authorities has been completed.

**Import of wheat at the cost Double of procurement price**

176. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had ordered the import of wheat recently at landed cost of Rs. 8.50 per kg.;

(b) whether this price is almost the double of the procurement price prevailing in India;

(c) whether this is also a fact that samples of wheat from Canada shipment